

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2005

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC

Dear Madam Secretary:

We write to thank and congratulate you and the Department for your efforts to achieve an international consensus favoring the adoption of an additional protocol to the Geneva Conventions providing for the establishment of a third neutral symbol for humanitarian usage. With Swiss Foreign Minister Calmy-Rey's recent announcement that invitations to the diplomatic conference needed to adopt the draft protocol would be sent out shortly, and that the conference would be convened in early December, we are hopeful that years of effort will soon be rewarded by success.

Your personal engagement on this issue has been extremely important and is most appreciated. We are well aware that American diplomatic efforts have been invaluable in maintaining international focus on the fundamentally humanitarian nature of this problem. As you know, some have sought to conflate the adoption of the red diamond, or crystal, with other larger and unrelated political problems in the Middle East. These attempts amount to little more than political extortion, and are all the more shameful for their willingness to jeopardize unquestionably humanitarian objectives to score minor political points.

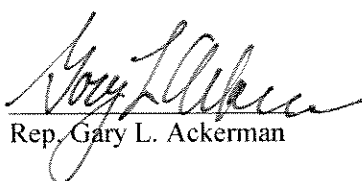
Like yourself and the President, we are deeply concerned about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and we strongly support U.S. efforts to end the violence and bring peace to both people. There is not, however, and there never has been, any justifiable reason to allow this decades-old dispute to impede the work of Israel's humanitarian aid society, the Magen David Adom (MDA), or any other humanitarian organization that would benefit from the availability of a neutral symbol other than a red cross or red crescent. As you know, the MDA has performed heroically, aiding all in need of assistance, without bias or favoritism, even those responsible for acts of horrific violence.

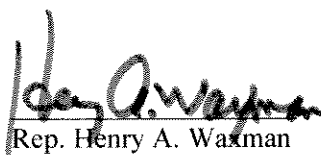
We are aware that some resistance to the third neutral symbol remains and that the consensus needed to adopt the draft protocol will continue to depend on the energy and commitment of its proponents. The opponents of this effort know well that their self-interested

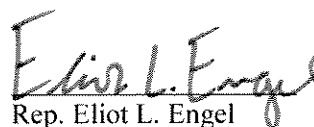
political arguments can not withstand public scrutiny in an exclusively humanitarian forum. The burden must be placed squarely upon them to break the consensus which clearly exists; they must justify and explain why their political needs should outweigh the world's humanitarian objectives. Clearly, they will not be able to do so, and their bluster and threats should be treated with the disdain they so clearly merit.

We are confident and grateful that you will continue your efforts to keep the states parties focused on the humanitarian issues at stake and that, with our allies, you will help drive this issue to a successful conclusion early next month. We can assure you that you will have our strongest support in this important and just endeavor.


Sincerely,

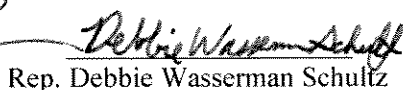

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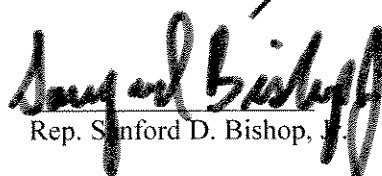

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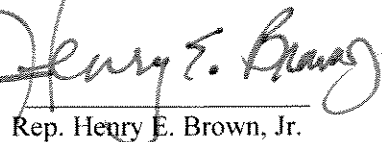

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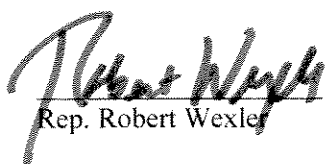

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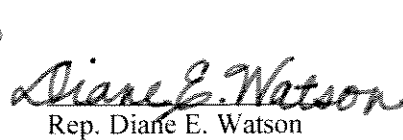

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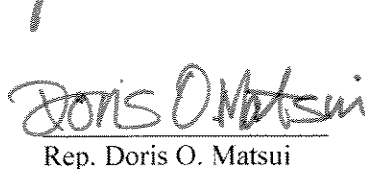

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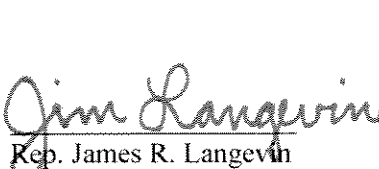

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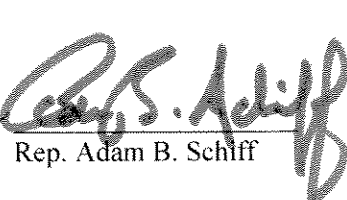

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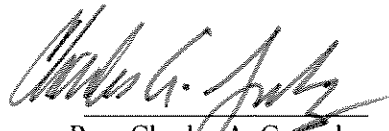
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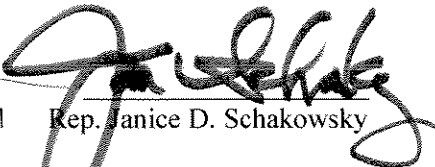
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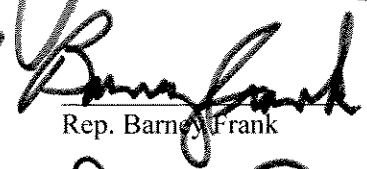
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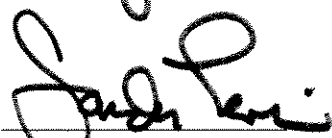
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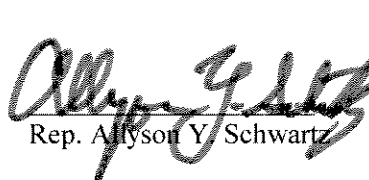
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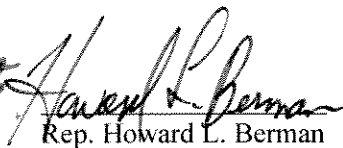
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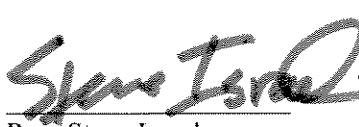
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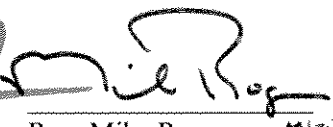
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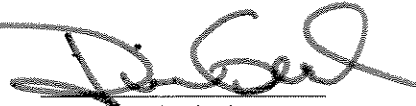


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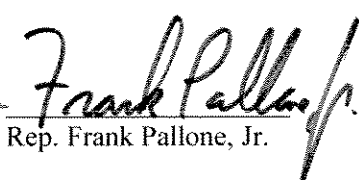
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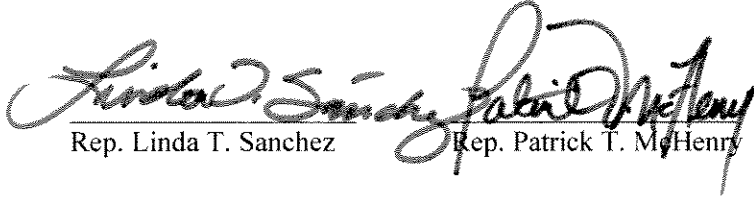
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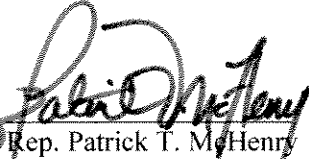
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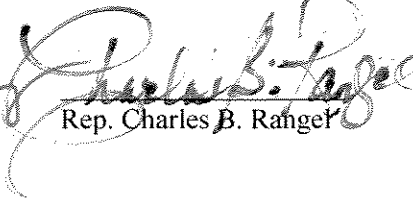
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